

The
Coast
Guard

RESERVIST

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A View from the Bridge

by
**RADM
Paul A. Welling
USCG**

I have just returned from a visit to Alaska where I met reservists from nearly every district working as part of the Coast Guard team supervising the oil spill cleanup in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. I repeatedly heard very complimentary remarks by regulars and other government officials regarding the knowledge, abilities and enthusiasm of our reservists. To a person, each reservist I talked with was excited about the part he was playing and glad for the opportunity to see Alaska; many for the first time. We are all saddened by the detrimental impact to the environment, but proud to be part of the team cleaning it up. Our efforts as part of the Federal on-scene coordinator's (FOSC) staff have been instrumental to the success achieved so far. There are currently over 60 reservists working in Prince William Sound and at Valdez, Homer, and Seward. Many of them are located at beach clean-up sites as the FOSC's immediate representative keeping track of the contractor's cleanup activities and making daily reports up the chain of command. The Coast Guard couldn't do it without its Reserve! It is but another example of our total force in action, in the national interest!

National security issues remain front page news from coast to coast. Reports of unrest in the Soviet Republics, a momentary grasp at democracy in Tiananmen Square, a resounding win by Solidarity over the Communist party in

PS3 Ross H. Smith of Seventh District Wins \$50 Saving Bond in IRR Survey! !

On 20 May, RADM Welling drew the name of PS3 Ross Smith as the winner of a \$50 savings bond, marking the official closing of our IRR survey. We used a survey although we had been cautioned that surveys are not effective in obtaining information due to the low response rate (historically 30%). That's where the savings bond came in—we hoped that a small incentive would increase our rate of response. It appears to have helped because our response rate was over 44%.

Each year, we lose thousands of recruiting and training dollars due to attrition from the SELRES to the IRR. In order to fix the attrition problem, we needed to know the reasons why attrition occurs at the current rate. The IRR survey had been initially conceived as a method of finding out why members transfer to the IRR from the SELRES by looking at a "snapshot" of the IRR. To do this, we identified members who had transferred from the SELRES to the IRR during a specific 6-month period.

Next, a very basic 2-page survey was developed that targeted some of the problems we think are encountered by drilling reservists. The survey also had an optional section for the respondent to write the reason(s) they had transferred to the IRR; recommendations for change to the Coast Guard; and whether they were interested in returning to the SELRES. The wealth of information obtained from this section and from the many letters we received is being analyzed and will be used to improve the program. Some examples of reasons for transferring to the IRR are included below.

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Ready Reserve Commissary Entitlements

New Reserve commissary procedures are coming soon. A streamlined process for members and dependents to shop in military commissaries has been developed.

There will be two separate means of identification for members of the Selected Reserve and their dependents to enter commissaries. A new U.S. Armed Forces Commissary Privilege Card (CPC) will be issued to all members of the Selected Reserve in good standing. The CPC and appropriate photo identification, such as a driver's license or reserve identification card (DD Form 2), will authorize a member or dependent to shop in a commissary once each month throughout the year. Also, during the time a member is performing any active duty, a member or dependent will need only to show a copy of valid active duty orders and a photo identification card.

The new CPC's (DD form 2529) will be distributed to members of the Selected Reserve sometime in mid 1989—mid 1990.

As an interim process, a copy of ADT orders issued to a reservist in CY88 or CY89, along with proper photo identification will entitle a reservist and/or dependent to one monthly commissary visit. That one set of orders must be certified in writing by the reservist to be the only set used. Using numerous copies of orders to circumvent the one monthly entitlement is illegal. Commissaries will attempt to control the monthly entitlement by date stamping the one set of orders on each visit.

Military ID Cards

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (OASD) is developing a machine readable ID card for all services to use. It will be issued to: Active duty and dependents, Selected

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Bridge—Continued from Page 1

Poland, proposals for significant reductions of Warsaw and Nato standing forces in Europe, exploding economies along the Pacific rim and economies out of control in South America and in grave difficulty in the USSR. Opportunities and concerns seems to come at an ever increasing pace. Predictions of continued significant change in the international political and military landscape are made by reputable national leaders including some of the most respected political scientists, diplomats and retired military leaders. Our national budget deficits continue unabated. Forecasts of reduced defense budgets are heard daily. Against this uncertain landscape we continue to plan our future contributions to national security. For the foreseeable future, the security of our ports, waterways and coastal zone will remain a vital part of our national defense requirements. The need for a vigilant defense during this continuing violent peace will not slacken. If anything, as forward deployed force levels are reduced, the need for secure lines of communications will become greater. The importance of ports secure from sabotage, terrorists, and accident will increase. The defense mission of the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve remains essential to our national security. This view is shared by many. In April of this year in testimony before the House Appropriations Committee, Assistant Secretary of Defense Stephen Duncan said that the Coast Guard Reserve's role in strategic deployment is vitally important to our national security.

Our immediate Reserve goal must be to improve, to pursue excellence in all things with vigor! There are few things that can't be done better. We need to recruit more prior service personnel, retain a greater percentage of our skilled force and ensure meaningful and challenging training. We all have a role to play and when we are all in step pursuing excellence we'll be meeting our responsibilities to the American public.

A recent Office of Readiness and Reserve study focused on future choices for the Coast Guard Reserve. RADM Bennett S. Sparks, USCGR led a panel, which was charged with "identifying and evaluating alternative future national security missions for the Coast Guard Reserve which may supplement or in part replace current mobilization roles." One of the tenets in the Strategic Planning and Reserve Capability Study (SPARCS '89) encourages an expansion of the current "augmentation for training" to a "full augmentation" concept. This would stimulate augmentation of any operational or support activity which any Coast Guard program manager considered a priority. A broader view encouraged use of Reservists to augment all Coast Guard civil activities as well as military mobilization. This expanded augmentation policy will integrate active and reserve forces into all missions which should improve total force flexibility and simplify training and administration. SPARCS '89 focuses on the future. It invites expansion of Reserve program support to accommodate the needs of all Coast

Guard programs and civil responsibilities. Expect more specific information on this the initiative in the Fall.

PA Welling

Chief, Office of Readiness and Reserve

Ready Reserve Direct Commission (RRDC) Officer Program

The Direct Commission Inactive Reserve (DCIR) Officer Program has been given a new name! The new name is the Ready Reserve Direct Commission (RRDC) Officer Program. The real change, however, is not the name but the program itself. So what's changed? Well. . .

First, the eligibility requirements have been modified. To be eligible for the RRDC, as a member of the Coast Guard Ready Reserve (SELRES or IRR), you must:

- Have reached your 21st birthday but not your 36th birthday by 1 July following the Headquarters RRDC Board that will consider you for selection. (The RRDC Board will be convened annually in April.)
- Have at least 60 semesters or the equivalent quarter units from an accredited college or university. CLEP exams with scores in the 25th percentile are acceptable for up to 30 units.
- Be at least E-4, having passed the most recent Servicewide Examination for E-5. You don't have to be above the promotion cut-off. However, if you have a baccalaureate or higher degree, your degree can be substituted for the grade requirement!
- Have a valid physical (approved quadrennial) which has found you to be physically qualified for commissioning or be able to pass a direct commission physical.
- Have a current security clearance or be able to obtain an updated/upgraded clearance.
- Have completed the Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT) required by your enlistment program. (If you're an RK, you must have completed Phase II training and if you're an RX, you must have completed REBI.)

The second major change is the RRDC application process itself. To start the application process, you will complete an Eligibility Checklist, CG-5481B, with your reserve training officer (if you're a member of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), your district (r) will assist you). If you're eligible, district (r) will schedule you to take the Officer Aptitude Rating (OAR). And you'll be sent an RRDC Application if you attain a minimum score on the OAR of 36. The application process comes to a close when the new RRDC program manager convenes the Headquarters Ready Reserve Direct Commission Board. The new program manager is Commandant (G-RSM) who assumes control of the program from Commandant (G-PRJ).

The COAST GUARD RESERVIST is published by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

ADM Paul A. Yost, Jr.,
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

RADM Paul A. Welling,
Chief, Office of Readiness and Reserve

ENS Jennifer L. Brothers,
Editor

This material is printed as information only and is not authority for official action.

Members of the Coast Guard Reserve are encouraged to submit short articles (in "plain English" of no more than 300 words, typed double spaced) and black and white photographs (at least 5x7 inches, with identifying captions) to the editor for possible publication. Submissions cannot be returned.

Reservists should report change of address to their District (r). The *Reservist* cannot process address changes.

Inquiries concerning the Coast Guard Reservist should be addressed to: Commandant (G-RS-1), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, DC 20593. Phone: (202) 267-1025 FTS 267-1025.

COMDTPUB P1001.29

The RRDC Application is the final major change. The Application has been simplified by eliminating many of the forms that were previously required. In addition, the Application is designed for the applicant to complete independently by following the instructions and examples that accompany the Application.

These changes are effective immediately for reservists applying for commissioning in 1990. All of the details have been published in a Commandant Notice 1131 which will soon be available at all reserve units. In addition, the changes will be included in the next change to the Reserve Administration and Training Manual.

Article LT Andrea L. Contratto, G-RSP

RETRACTIONS

Physical Exam Requirements—Physical exams are required quadrennially for Ready Reservists below the age of 50, and every year after the age of 50. In our May 89 issue we had incorrectly stated that physicals were required quadrennially regardless of age.

Coast Guard Bicentennial Ball—the ball has been rescheduled to be held in July of 1990, vice 16 September 1989 as mentioned in our May issue.

Survey—Continued from Page 1

295 or 60% of those in the survey group were in critically short reserve rates: ST, QM, YN, RM, RD, and HS had the highest loss to on-board strength ratios. The greatest numerical losses, however, were in PS (123), BM (62), and YN (45). During the same period, we also lost 8 chiefs who did not yet have 20 years for retirement! On the other end, 102 or 21% of the survey group still had an obligation to complete. Of those who had not completed their obligation, RX's had the greatest loss at 44 with 35 losses in the RK program. The average district had transferred 5% of their authorized SELRES strength to the IRR with none of the districts showing any significant variance from this average.

FINDINGS (IN BRIEF AND SAMPLE REASONS FOR TRANSFERRING TO THE IRR):

Family Support: 7%—families did not support the member on IDT and ADT. "I did not have time with my family. . ." "Lack of positive support from spouse." ". . . Coast Guard duty caused too much time from home. . ."

Employer Support: 59%—reserve duty interfered with school or civilian job. "Conflicted with civilian job requiring weekend participation." ". . . forced to use my annual vacation for drills and ADT. . ." 33%—difficulties getting off work or out of school to perform ADT. "Summers were very hard to attend drills because of the hours I work."

Job Satisfaction: 43%—did not accomplish important work and 29%—did not enjoy drill weekend work. ". . . disgusted by the menial work assigned, the lack of proper tools, not enough time to properly complete the job assigned, the lack of organization." ". . . simply could not tolerate attending a weekend drill and just sitting in a chair for two solid days." "Wasted my time." "I hated it! . . . there was never anything to do. . ." ". . . all I did was busy work." "Most of time sat, not doing anything productive, helpful, or appreciated. . ."

Skill Usage: 33%—did not work in rate during drills. ". . . not working or training in my rate." "Working out of rate." ". . . not working in my port security rating."

Unit Support: 27%—not satisfied with either unit administrative or unit officer support. 42%—not satisfied with training support from their unit. "requesting transfer due to lack of training." "I got lost in the shuffle." ". . . the support personnel. . . had no idea what they were doing."

Active Support: 26%—active command did not make them feel a part of the team and 24%—active duty command did not have specific tasks for them on ADT. "Bad attitudes from active duty personnel. . . tired of being treated like a peon." "AD-no support. . ." ". . . active duty CO projected air of mistrust of the reserve."

Pay: 16%—drill pay wasn't always on time. 11%—problems getting ADT pay on time. 24%—had difficulty correcting a pay problem.

". . . my pay never came on time." "Foul-ups for two years in a row. . . pay problems." ". . . five months behind on pay."

District Support: 21%—did not receive good administrative support from their district office. 27%—some level of dissatisfaction with their district office. ". . . I was rified." "Never left of my own accord." ". . . it took me one full year to start drilling again."

Training: 49%—never received mobilization training from the active duty command. 37%—never received mobilization training from their reserve unit. 38%—never received any training for their weekend assignment from the active command. ". . . not receiving any boat time and training from either reserve or active duty station. . ."

Policy: 28%—negatively affected by some Coast Guard policy. ". . . Coast Guard is low man. . . for money but this is lousy." ". . . placed on Inactive status for missing two drill weekends." "Overweight." ". . . petty policies on officer level filtering down. . ." "unilateral policy changes within rate. . ."

The "reasons" listed above are just a brief sampling of the ones we received. From the "reasons" and other comments, it appears that we're losing some people that we shouldn't be losing and we need to find ways to keep them in the program. More than 20 percent of those surveyed indicated either on the survey instrument itself or during a follow-up phone conversation that their reason(s) for transferring to the IRR no longer exists and they desire reassignment to their previous unit.

This article is not the end of this project, but the beginning of a renewed emphasis on better management of the IRR and on finding ways of assisting our reservists in solving problems that will enable them to remain in a drill status. A detailed report based on the IRR survey will be provided to each district in the near future. Then we'll concentrate on the problems and develop recommendations to correct them.

NEXT MONTH: A report on the control group survey.

Article by LT Andrea Contratto G-RSP

Commissary—Continued from Page 1

Reserve and dependents and Retirees and dependents. The Card is slated to be issued to all active duty personnel in FY90 and reserve/retirees in FY92.

Reserve Family Member Identification Card

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (OASD) has developed a policy which will require all reserve components to issue a Reserve Family Member ID Card to all dependents 10 years of age or older. The ID Cards will be issued using a DD Form 1172, which will also pre-enroll the members and their dependents in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) data base. A common ID Card should eliminate problems dependents are experiencing with base or commissary entry. The cards will be issued during FY 90.

Article by LCDR Garry Domnisie G-RSM-I



CWO4 Caso receives flag from RADM Golove.

Editor's Corner

After 42 years in the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve, editor CWO4 A. C. M. (Tony) Caso is retiring from active service. Over the years he has been known affectionately as Commander, 4th Coast Guard District, in part because of his dedicated service to the Coast Guard, but also because of the numerous friends and acquaintances he has developed throughout those years.

Present at CWO4 Caso's retirement ceremony was RADM Fred S. Golove, Senior Coast Guard Reserve Officer Atlantic Area, who shared anecdotes concerning his long association with Chief Warrant Officer Caso, and presented him with a flag with crossed quills.

CWO4 Caso's contributions to the Office of Readiness and Reserve, and as editor of the Reservist will be sorely missed. He is succeeded in this position by ENS Jennifer L. Brothers, USCGR.

Automated OES Soon to be "On-Line"

Reserve Personnel Management Division (G-RSM) at Headquarters will soon be using new computer software that permits the electronic filing of selected information from Officer Evaluation Reports (OERs). Data taken from OERs covering the past four years, as well as current OER data, will be put into the system. This information can be processed for some very useful applications to the Officer Evaluation System (OES) manager. Among these are:

- The ability to generate lists of missing reports. This will be a valuable tool for helping to keep OER files up-to-date, as well as giving the districts more lead-time to obtain missing reports on individuals being considered by selection and retention boards.
- A means by which Headquarters and districts may hold rating chains more accountable for submission of OERs. Districts will have access to the information through a modem network, which will provide them with the status of each officer's OER file.

The new software, currently being tested in the Office of Personnel, is expected to be "on-line" in September.

Article LT Linda Crown, (G-RSM-3)

YOUR COAST GUARD

HEADQUARTERS

Flag Plot Reserve Unit Awarded Commendation

Coast Guard Reserve Unit Headquarters has recently received the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation for outstanding support to the Headquarters Command Center (Flag Plot). The unit, commanded by CDR William G. Boyce, USCGR, is only the 20th reserve unit to receive this award.

The award was presented by CAPT Robert Pritchard, Fifth Coast Guard District (r), who praised the units' augmentation of the highly sensitive Command Center and their achievement in earning two consecutive "outstanding" district inspection ratings.

The Flag Plot unit trains and qualifies reservists who then serve as Duty Officers, Assistant Duty Officers, and Communication Center Watch Standers at Headquarters. All unit members have actively participated in the twice-yearly Joint Chiefs of Staff readiness exercises as well as real-world crises such as the recent Exxon Valdez disaster. "Flag Plot," as the unit is generally known, is easily the most sensitive unit of the Coast Guard Reserve. Reserve watchstanders have briefed the Commandant, Cabinet Officers, members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Congressman, and Senators in the course of their operational duties. As involvement of the Coast Guard in major events continues to grow, this reserve unit will continue to meet and execute major new challenges.

Article submitted by CDR William G. Boyce, USCGR, Commanding Officer CGRU Headquarters (G-TGC)

1st DISTRICT

Inter-Service Training For Reserve Unit COTP Boston

A famous general once said, "When it comes to war, whoever gets there the quickest with the mostest wins."

The successful movement of military hardware and fuel from its source to the battlefield is certainly one of the most important factors in achieving victory over an enemy. However, transporting military assets is just part of the equation. It is imperative that military assets and logistical support mechanisms be protected while enroute to the fight.

In time of war, an important link in the movement of military assets from the U.S. to an overseas battlefield will be our ports. It is here that a wartime Coast Guard will perform one of its most critical missions; protection of port facilities and the transport ships and military cargo within its harbor area. This is one of our Maritime Defense Zone (MDZ) missions, and one in which the Coast Guard Reserve will be actively involved.

It is precisely for this mission area that CGRU Captain of the Port Boston (RUCOTP) and the 347th Military Police Detachment of the U. S. Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID)



CDR Rauworth (center) explains loading/unloading operations.

began planning. Last April, personnel from RUCOTP and CID met to begin inter-service training for our respective responsibilities in the protection of military assets and equipment. CID's mission is to provide security against theft of military assets from their point of origin to the battlefield, whereas, the Coast Guard is responsible for providing security for port facilities. In Boston, this mission is the responsibility of the CG MSO Boston. In the event of mobilization, most RUCOTP personnel would supplement the staff of MSO Boston which would become a component of the local MDZ structure; however, the Coast Guard interface with the Army's CID would remain intact, permitting joint CID/Coast Guard activities in U.S. ports, as well as in overseas ports, should Coast Guard units be assigned there in time of war.

The meeting between RUCOTP and CID was coordinated by CDR Mike Rauworth, Commanding Officer of RUCOTP Boston. "We wanted to meet CID personnel, maximize inter-service training, and work out the details for coordinating joint activities in the port should we need to work together in the future," said CDR Rauworth.

The day's training included touring a marine freight terminal, observing container ship loading/unloading operations, and classroom instruction on port operations and MDZ activities. Additional joint training is planned for the near future which would be designed to practice security procedures and the protection of cargo at a marine freight terminal and onboard ships in the Port of Boston. During this training, security teams might consist of both RUCOTP and CID personnel, each carrying out their wartime duties.

Last April's joint training gave both RUCOTP and CID an opportunity to make new friends and learn a mission requirement of another service. More importantly, it provided a foundation on which to build a stronger, combined force prepared for its wartime mission, should the need arise.

Article by LT Dan Watton, USCGR, CGRU COTP Boston

2nd DISTRICT

CGRU St. Louis "A" Team Assists in Fighting Towboat Fire

It started as just another Saturday afternoon of training for the boat crews and Port Safety Inspection Team of CGRU St. Louis A, but it ended with the crews helping to fight a major tugboat fire on the Mississippi River.

On 15 October 88, the towboat FRANCIS R. KEEGAN discovered a fire in their engine room and cut loose their barge with its cargo. Other towboats in the area quickly captured the barge. The towboats, DELMAR JAGER and PIONEER, rescued the KEEGAN's crew, pushed the burning vessel towards shore, and sprayed water on the outer surfaces of the KEEGAN without much success in arresting the fire.

PS1 Richard Daly, Assistant Fire Chief for St. Charles, MO, was entering a shoreside facility while on routine patrol as a member of CGRU St. Louis' inspection team, when he noticed smoke rising from the river. Climbing down the riverbank he caught sight of the KEEGAN engulfed in flames. Summoning the CG179100 from Base St. Louis, he approached the towboat and with the help of BM2 Heber, a fireman and an EMT, directed the firefighting efforts of the JAGER and the PIONEER. The two reservists boarded the KEEGAN, ventilated the spaces to relieve smoke, and attacked the flames with hoses from the JAGER.

THE CG171209, and CG179071, both from Base St. Louis, assisted in the transportation of firefighters and equipment, as well as providing protection in the case of man overboard. Reserve boat crew trainees and port safety inspectors remaining on shore helped the local firefighters transport hoses and equipment down the steep bank to the riverside staging area. This was a major all-hands evolution and provided an opportunity for the reservists to put their firefighting training to good use. The Coast Guardsmen remained on scene assisting local firefighters until the blaze was extinguished.

Article by ENS E. H. Lutsky, CGRU St. Louis

RESERVE IN THE NEWS

Memphis FTX "Safe Harbor 89"

Has anyone ever heard of the Gulf of Arkansas? Probably not, unless they participated in the recently concluded exercise entitled "Safe Harbor 89," conducted by: Marine Safety Office Memphis, also known as Commander, Maritime Defense Southern Rivers; REDCOM 18, a Naval Reserve unit, also known as Maritime Defense Zone Sector Two; and a Marine Reconnaissance platoon from Camp LeJeune, NC. During the period 23-28 April 1989, a total of 190 Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps Reservists participated in this exercise in order to test port and pierside security. In the context of this exercise, Lake McKeller and the Mississippi River around Memphis became the "Gulf of Arkansas".

A two hour briefing by the Navy-Coast Guard staff on Saturday, 22 April, provided the keynote and kickoff for Safe Harbor 89. A good lead-in to the exercise itself was provided by the application of the Maritime Defense Zone concept to the specific subsector of Memphis. Background information was also provided concerning the history of the Maritime Defense Zone concept, as well as its mission and organizational structure.

As the exercise began on Sunday, 23 April, the joint exercise staff went into the field as controllers and observers. Reserve personnel manned the command center on an around-the-clock basis ensuring communication and coordination with field units.

The exercise took place on a portion of the Mississippi River that has significant shore and bridge installation, providing the Marine Corps Reserve opposing forces with many targets. This kept the action fast paced, and the constructed scenarios challenging. Five months of preparation culminated in Exercise Safe Harbor 89, which was an excellent example of joint operations and planning.

Article by CDR Jack Givens, USNR, NAVRESREDCOM Reg 18

7th DISTRICT

CGRU Station Fort Pierce Nets Nearly \$3 Million Worth of Cocaine

In the course of reserve replacement augmentation on Saturday, 20 May 1989, reserve boat crews attached to CGRU Station Fort Pierce, recovered 11 bales of cocaine weighing approximately 628 pounds near the Fort Pierce Inlet on the Florida coast.

During the mid-morning on Saturday, two reserve boat crews were underway; one on patrol, and one conducting training when a passing pleasure boat notified the second craft, a UTB, of strange materials adrift in the area. Both reserve boat crews conducted a search of the area and located sacks of cocaine adrift with Columbian markings.

The station OOD, a reservist, was notified of the situation. He proceeded to direct the efforts of five boat crews, the alerting of the St. Lucie

County Sheriff's Department and U.S. Customs, even providing two reservists to help fill out the Customs crew which was short-handed.

In all, 17 people from 3 agencies were involved in the underway operations which resulted in the recovery of what became the largest cocaine find in the history of St. Lucie County. Of these 17 people, 13 were Coast Guard members (11 reservists, and 2 active duty personnel). The source of the illegal drugs is still being investigated.

Deserving of recognition for their efforts are; the fully qualified and fully certified reserve boat crews and station watches of CGRU Fort Pierce, LCDR James Armstrong, Commanding Officer of CGRU Station Fort Pierce, for his unit's performance, and CW04 Michael Abbott, USCG Commanding Officer, CG Station Fort Pierce, for making the "training investment" in qualifying replacement augmentation Reservists.

Article by CAPT D. L. Pulket, USCGR,
Commander Reserve Group Miami

9th DISTRICT

Reservists Show Their Colors at Camp Perry

Coast Guard blue, not Army green, was the prevalent color at the Ohio National Guard's Camp Perry training site on the weekend of 1-2 April 89. The training site was where more than 350 Coast Guard Reservists from Reserve Group Detroit participated in weapons qualifications, mobilization processing, and annual physical fitness testing. The exercise was appropriately named FIT FIRE '89.

Participating in the exercise were Reserve Units Toledo, Detroit, Saginaw, St. Clair, Lake Erie and Cleveland. According to CAPT Carmond Fitzgerald, Chief of the Ninth Coast Guard District Readiness and Reserve Division, "This was the first time an entire Reserve Group combined for this type of exercise—not just in our district, but in any Coast Guard District... it provided our men and women with the opportunity to meet their annual training requirements, as well as giving them actual



PSC Terry Winans, RU Cleveland, checks the aim of PS3 Kevin McInerney, RU Saginaw during qualifying on the practical pistol course.

experience in every aspect of processing for active duty."

While some members were performing in physical testing including a two-mile run, others were at the rifle range receiving instruction and obtaining qualifications. Still other reservists, part of the Mobilization Processing Team (MPT), under the direction of CWO J. Howard, Ninth Coast Guard District Reserve Administration Branch, brought a mountain of paperwork under control as his team spent the weekend processing selected reservists for mobilization, and then bringing them back to their reserve status.

"FIT FIRE '89 was a valuable learning experience for all who participated. The exercise gave all of the units in the Group, as well as every Reservist involved, a chance to visibly demonstrate their ability to mobilize... we identified a number of strengths as well as some weaknesses," said CAPT James Comerford, Commander Reserve Group Detroit.

Article submitted by PA1 Richard DeChant,
PA1 Frederick Wasco, and PA3 Peter Grosetti,
all from Reserve Group Detroit.

11th DISTRICT

TRAEX '89, A Resounding Success

The weekend 8-9 April saw over 180 Coast Guard Reserve members from San Francisco Bay area units assembled at Coast Guard Island in Alameda for a mass training exercise. The exercise was held to test whether problems identified during a training exercise conducted earlier in the year had been solved.

Force element training in protection of the port and its facilities from simulated terrorism was the order of the day. A multitude of scenarios were played out during the training exercise with "blue" forces playing the part of "friendlies" and "orange" forces playing the part of enemy saboteurs.

Despite the vigilance of the blue forces, the orange forces on board the PAMELA D and the NINER 3 managed to penetrate water defenses and destroy a pier. In other action, snipers shot at Blue forces from a building, which resulted in the capture and the arrest of the Orange terrorists within. Blue forces were also deployed on Coast Guard Island, Alameda, as guards in sensitive areas, and practiced the protection of restricted cargo areas, a task that might be a Coast Guard responsibility in the event of an actual wartime mobilization.

Members of the Marine Safety Office, San Francisco acted as observers of the training exercise, and according to one of the observers, "This was a very successful training exercise and all hands received a great deal of experience. Plans are being formulated to make this a yearly event."

Article submitted by PA1 Ron Cabral, USCGR, 11th District
Reserve Public Affairs, CG Island Alameda, CA

The Coast Guard Urinalysis Drug Testing Program

Upon reporting to your unit for a weekend drill, you find you have been lucky enough to be selected to provide a urine sample for the Coast Guard Urinalysis Program. When you arrive at the collection site, you verify your identity, are provided with two sample containers, and are then required to fill both containers with the required amount of urine. After you have provided the samples and have properly sealed and identified both containers, you leave the collection site to go back to your regular job. Since the only members that are notified of test results are those that test positive for drugs, most of you never hear anything more and forget about the whole thing. Many of you are probably familiar with these procedures, but are unfamiliar with other aspects of the collection and testing process. This article attempts to answer some of the questions you may have concerning the process, by providing information about the Coast Guard's contract testing laboratory, the laboratory quality control program, current procedural safeguards, and recent changes to collection procedures and the sample container.

The Coast Guard utilizes the services of a contract laboratory, Environmental Health Research and Testing, Inc. (EHRT) in Birmingham, Alabama, to conduct urinalysis drug testing. The EHRT laboratory is certified by the Department of Defense (DoD) to test for various drugs using two separate tests; radioimmunoassay (RIA) for the initial screening test and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) for the confirmatory tests. RIA is designed to identify samples that have traces of any drug metabolites. If a sample screens positive by RIA, it is then tested by GC/MS for the drug that was identified in the screening test. GC/MS is the most reliable test on the market. If a sample screens positive and is then confirmed positive, there is absolutely no doubt that the urine sample contains drug metabolites.

EHRT is required to participate in a rigorous quality control program using samples prepared by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP). Both "open" and "blind" samples are included in the quality control program. "Blind" samples (either uncontaminated or containing drug metabolites) are submitted weekly by Commandant (G-PS-2) utilizing identification from various field units. Since February 1988, when the contract with EHRT began, approximately 3500 blind quality control samples have been tested. In this time, there NEVER has been a false positive report (a sample known to be negative that tests positive). Under our guidelines, if a false positive should ever be reported, the laboratory will be required to cease operations immediately and remain shut down until the Coast Guard and DoD fully investigate the cause for the false positive report and certify that the problem has been corrected. Additional "open" samples (all known to contain drug metabolites at a certain level) are mailed directly to the lab from AFIP. The open quality control program tests the lab's proficiency

at determining the exact level of drug metabolites. EHRT has achieved an excellent record in the open quality control program. Their overall performance rating is at the top of the list of DoD certified facilities.

To remove any questions about errors in testing, two samples are collected from each member. The samples are identified by separate numbers on bar code labels attached to each sample container and recorded in a unit log book that also contains the member's name and service number. The sample giver seals the collection containers and maintains possession of his or her samples until the bar code labels are attached, and their respective numbers are entered in the unit log, and a chain of custody is established. One sample is immediately sent to the laboratory for analysis, while the other is kept in a locked refrigerator at the unit. If the original sample tests positive and no legitimate reason is established for the drug's presence in the member's urine (i.e. a medical prescription), the second sample is sent for testing. If the second sample also tests positive for the same drug, it is considered to be supporting evidence of the first sample's test result. This means that a total of four positive test results (two tests; the RIA and the GC/MS, are performed on both samples) are needed to support the finding of a drug incident.

The Coast Guard is continually striving to further enhance the integrity of our urinalysis program. It is already, in our opinion, the best drug testing program in the Federal Government. In light of this goal, we have made some

recent procedural changes regarding the handling of samples. Anyone who had access to second samples, and therefore the chance to switch their own second samples with another member's, must now have both their samples sent to the lab immediately following collection. Also, partial samples must now be discarded to prevent accidental sample mix-ups. No partials, no mix-ups.

EHRT has also changed sample containers. The new container is clear and has a press-on lid. When the new container is closed, the only way that it can be opened is to cut the top off. When this is done the container cannot be reclosed, which makes it virtually impossible to tamper with a member's sample that has been properly sealed, and remain undetected.

As you can see from the information presented in this article, the Coast Guard's urinalysis program contains procedural safeguards to ensure that test results reported to your commanding officer are accurate. While it is impossible to guarantee that no errors will ever occur, we have designed, and continue to revise, our procedures to make that probability as small as possible.

Article ENS Todd Tschannen, G-PS-2

"In spite of the cost of living, it's still popular."

—Kathleen Norris,
author

Coast Guard Bicentennial News

The following schedule lists events planned for the Coast Guard Bicentennial Celebration. If your city is planning a celebration to commemorate our bicentennial, please drop *The Reservist* a line, giving the name of the city, the dates on which it is to be held, and the name of the official function. We will include the celebration in future Bicentennial News bulletins.

1989

	<u>City</u>
August 4-6	Newburyport, MA
August 7	Portland, ME
August 12	New York, NY
September 1-6	Baltimore, MD
September 23	Cape May, NJ
November 11	Arlington, VA
December	Washington, DC

1990

January 28	St Petersburg, FL
May 19	Torrance, CA
May 21-23	New London, CT
May 27-30	Washington, DC
June 3-5	Portland, OR
June 6-9	Portland, OR
June 15	Lewiston, ID
July 1-4	Boston, MA
July 21-22	Baltimore, MD
August 2-4	Grand Haven, MI

Event

Bicentennial kickoff
Lighthouse Bicentennial
Munro Statue acceptance
American Legion Convention
Munro Statue dedication
National Veterans Day
Christmas Tree lighting 1990
10th Anniv. CGC Blackthorn
Armed Forces Day
Academy, Graduation
Washington Bicentennial Observance/ Commandants Change of Command
Navy League Convention
Rose Festival
Idaho Centennial/CG Bicentennial
Fourth of July/Boston Harborfest
Baltimore Bicentennial Observances
Bicentennial Climax